

What's New in the MPDC

OCTOBER 1, 2001

MPDC DISTRIBUTING FREE HELMETS FOR YOUNG CYCLISTS IN DC

In Spring 2000, DC enacted a law requiring all children under the age of 16 to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle in the District. Now, the MPDC and the District Division of Transportation (DDOT) are teaming up to help reduce bicycle-related injuries to children in DC by equipping more of them with helmets. Officers will issue vouchers to young people seen riding bicycles and not wearing helmets. Children can redeem the voucher for a free helmet at any district station, as long as a parent or guardian accompanies them. For more information, please call Lt. Patrick Burke, MPDC's Traffic Safety Coordinator, at 202-727-0159, or read about the program at:

Get details about DC's Child Helmet Safety Act of 2000, including a copy of the law, by going to:
mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/bikers.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/helmetdistr.shtm

MPDC STEPS UP PRESENCE AT NATIONAL, LOCAL SITES; PSA SYSTEM REMAINS IN PLACE

Ever since the terrorist attacks September 11 on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, the MPDC has been called upon to assist with stepped-up police presence at critical national sites in DC as well as local installations such as water reservoirs. These assignments are generally handled by specially trained personnel who are part of the Department's civil disturbance units (CDU). Most CDU officers have regular assignments in one of the seven police districts or in other field units. As a result, recent CDU deployments have had some impact on community policing deployments and other field activities. However, contrary to some news media reports over the past week, the PSA system has not been suspended or eliminated. PSA scout cars continue to be staffed, and PSA meetings, Partnerships for Problem Solving sessions and other community policing activities are being carried out on the PSAs to the extent possible. The MPDC hopes to return to normal deployment patterns as soon as possible. The Department appreciates the community's understanding and patience as we all work through these unique and challenging times.

VESSEL TRAFFIC PERMITTED ON THE POTOMAC; COAST GUARD, MPDC MAINTAIN STRONG PRESENCE

This past week, the US Coast Guard lifted the Security Zone it had set up on the waters of the Potomac River following the September 11 terrorist attacks. While all vessels are permitted to transit the area, the Coast Guard, the MPDC's Harbor Patrol and other law enforcement agencies will continue their increased presence on the water to ensure the safety and security of the US Maritime Transportation System. Boaters are reminded to follow the directions of the Coast Guard and Harbor Patrol officers. Naval Vessel Protection Zones do remain in effect within 500 yards of any US Naval Vessel. All vessels within 500 yards of a US Naval Vessel shall operate at the minimum speed necessary to maintain a safe course and proceed as directed by the official patrol. For more information on vessel traffic on the Potomac, click on:

The MPDC's Harbor Patrol reminds boaters to be safe and follow all laws and safety regulations at all times of the year. For additional information about the Harbor Patrol unit and boating safety on DC's waterways, go to: mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborpatrol.shtm

www.mpdc.org (Click on News Room)

YOUTH BOAT BUILDERS LAUNCH BEVIN SKIFF AS PART OF UNIQUE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

For more information about youth violence prevention programs in DC, or to offer suggestions or help, please call the MPDC's Office of Youth Violence Prevention at 202-727-7752.

A new Bevin skiff, built by DC youth as part of a unique violence prevention program, was launched this past week in the MPDC Harbor Branch docks on the Potomac River. Built over the past few weeks in the Washington Navy Yard, the rowboat is the work of DC youth under the supervision of MPDC Youth Violence Prevention officers and a boat builder from the Alexandria Seaport Foundation (ASF). Boat builders and

program operators took Chief Ramsey and others for rides on the vessel as part of the official launch. The boat-building program is designed to provide at-risk youth in DC with useful technical skills, as well as discipline and teamwork training. Read the ASF's news release at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News Room)

UPCOMING EVENT: CITIZEN SUMMIT II

On October 6, 2001, residents from across the District of Columbia will come together with Mayor Anthony A. Williams, his Cabinet, the City Council and other city leaders to shape the future of the city. Throughout the Summit, residents will help determine how local tax dollars will be allocated and set priorities for District agency directors. To register for the citizen Summit, or to get more information, call 202-727-0882 or visit:

www.neighborhoodaction.dc.gov

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV